

1 State of Arkansas  
2 90th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2015  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 816

5 By: Senator B. Sample  
6 By: Representative Rushing  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ELECTION LAWS CONCERNING ELECTION  
10 EQUIPMENT, TESTING PROCEDURES, ELECTION PROCESSES,  
11 AND ELECTION PROCEDURES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE ELECTION LAWS CONCERNING  
16 ELECTION EQUIPMENT, TESTING PROCEDURES,  
17 ELECTION PROCESSES, AND ELECTION  
18 PROCEDURES.  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-1-101(18), concerning the definition of  
24 "marking device", is amended to read as follows:

25 (18) "Marking device" means any approved device ~~for marking a~~  
26 ~~paper ballot with ink or other substance that will enable the votes to be~~  
27 ~~tabulated by means of an electronic vote tabulating device~~ operated by a  
28 voter to record the voter's choices through marking or creating a paper  
29 ballot with ink or other substance that will enable the votes to be tabulated  
30 by means of an electronic vote tabulating device;  
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32 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-1-101(40)(B), concerning the definition  
33 of "voting machine", is amended to read as follows:

34 (B) ~~An electronic device for marking a paper ballot to be~~  
35 ~~electronically scanned~~ Electronic devices that operate as a combination of a  
36 ballot marking device and an electronic vote tabulating device; and



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SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-1-101, concerning definitions relevant to elections, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(42)(A) "Election media" means any device used in an election definition or to record votes cast with a direct record electronic machine or voting machine.

(B) "Election media" includes without limitation:

- (i) Memory stick devices;
- (ii) Digital flashcards;
- (iii) Personalized electronic ballots (PEBs);
- (iv) Personal Computer Cards; and
- (v) Zip disks.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-5-301(e)(2), concerning prerequisites to the purchase or procurement of a voting machine or electronic vote tabulating device by the Secretary of State, is amended to read as follows:

(2) Provide, if deemed necessary by the county, personnel for the supervision and training of county personnel for at least two (2) elections, one (1) primary and one (1) general at no additional cost to the county or the Secretary of State.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 7-5-504 is amended to read as follows:  
7-5-504. Machine specifications.

No make of voting machine shall be approved for use unless it is so constructed that:

- (1) It will ensure secrecy to the voter in the act of voting;
- (2) It shall provide ~~facilities~~ the capacity for voting for or against as many questions as may be submitted;
- (3) It shall permit the voter to vote separately for the candidate of his or her choice for each office or position to be voted upon and to vote separately on each issue to be decided by election;
- (4) It shall permit the voter to vote for as many persons for an office for whom he or she is lawfully entitled to vote, but no more;
- (5) It shall prevent the voter from voting for the same candidate or question more than one (1) time;

1 (6) It shall permit the voter to verify in a private and  
2 independent manner the votes selected by the voter on the ballot before the  
3 ballot is cast;

4 (7) It shall provide the voter with the opportunity in a private  
5 and independent manner to change the ballot or correct any error before the  
6 ballot is cast;

7 (8) ~~It~~ If it is a direct recording electronic voting machine, it  
8 shall include a voter-verified paper audit trail, except as provided under §  
9 7-5-301(b);

10 (9) If the voter is legally entitled to select only one (1)  
11 candidate for an office but the voter selects more than one (1) candidate for  
12 the office, it shall notify the voter before the ballot is cast that he or  
13 she has selected more than one (1) candidate for the office on the ballot,  
14 notify the voter of the effect of casting multiple votes for the office, and  
15 provide the voter with the opportunity to correct the ballot before the  
16 ballot is cast;

17 (10) It shall permit the voter to vote for or against any  
18 question on which he or she may have the right to vote, but no other;

19 (11) It shall be capable of being programmed to display for  
20 voting purposes only the voter's proper ballot;

21 (12) It shall correctly register and record and accurately count  
22 all votes cast for any and all persons and for or against any and all  
23 questions;

24 (13) It shall be provided with a protective device to prevent any  
25 unauthorized operation of the machine before or after the election;

26 (14) It shall be provided with a counter or tabulator which shall  
27 show at all times during the election how many persons have voted;

28 (15) It shall be so equipped and constructed so that it can be  
29 made inaccessible to further voting after the polls have closed and all  
30 voters who were in line at the time the polls closed have voted;

31 (16) It shall permit a voter to vote in any election for any  
32 person for whom he or she wishes to vote when the person's name does not  
33 appear upon the voting machine;

34 (17) It bears a ~~number~~ unique numerical, alphabetical, or  
35 alphanumeric sequence identifier that ~~will distinguish~~ distinguishes it from  
36 any other machine;

1 (18) It shall be provided with a screen, hood, or partition which  
2 shall allow the voter to vote a secret ballot;

3 (19) It shall be capable of being operated from an alternate  
4 power source should the need arise;

5 (20) It shall permit voters with disabilities to vote unassisted  
6 if they so desire; and

7 (21) It shall be:

8 (A) Qualified by ~~the National Association of State Election~~  
9 ~~Directors~~ or an authorized federal agency or national testing and standards  
10 laboratory which is acceptable to the Secretary of State;

11 (B) Approved by the State Board of Election Commissioners;  
12 and

13 (C) Selected by the Secretary of State.  
14

15 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 7-5-507(a), concerning demonstration of the  
16 voting machines, are amended to read as follows:

17 (a)(1) The manufacturer shall demonstrate the machine to the county  
18 election officials prior to the first election at which the machines are  
19 placed in use.

20 (2) The date for the demonstration shall be ~~set by~~ agreed upon  
21 by the vendor and the county board of election commissioners.  
22

23 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 7-5-509(a) and (b), concerning the voting  
24 machines used for demonstration, are amended to read as follows:

25 (a)(1) The county board of election commissioners may designate  
26 suitable times and places where voting machines shall be exhibited for the  
27 purpose of giving instructions in their use to all voters who apply for  
28 instruction.

29 (2) Public notice of the times and places where voting machines  
30 will be exhibited shall be given at least forty-eight (48) hours before the  
31 first date of demonstration by publication one (1) time in one (1) or more  
32 daily or weekly newspapers published in the town, city, or county using the  
33 machines if a newspaper is published in the town, city, or county.

34 (b)(1) ~~At least one (1) machine for demonstration purposes shall be~~  
35 ~~placed in each precinct not more than twenty five (25) days nor less than ten~~  
36 ~~(10) days before each election, when practical.~~ The location of voting

1 machines for demonstration shall be in accessible public buildings.

2           (2) The voting machines used for demonstration shall display  
3 sample ballots showing the title of offices to be filled and, as far as  
4 practicable, the names of the candidates in the next election.

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6           SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 7-5-510(b), concerning forms for complaints  
7 about the function of voting machines, is amended to read as follows:

8           (b)(1) A voter may file a complaint form with a poll worker who shall  
9 forward the complaint form to the county board of election commissioners.

10           (2) A copy of each complaint shall be provided to the Elections  
11 Division of the Secretary of State.

12           (3) It shall be the duty of the county board of election  
13 commissioners to investigate complaints regarding the function of a voting  
14 machine.

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16           SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 7-5-515 is amended to read as follows:

17           7-5-515. Preparation of machines for election - Logic and accuracy  
18 testing and public testing.

19           (a) Immediately upon the proper certification of candidates and  
20 questions, the county board of election commissioners shall prepare the  
21 voting machines, oversee their programming, and test and adjust the voting  
22 machines for the election.

23           (b) In performing ~~this function~~ these functions, the county board may  
24 be assisted by experts appointed or employed by the county board.

25           (c)(1) ~~At least~~ As soon as the election media is prepared, but no later  
26 than seven (7) days prior to the beginning of voting, the county board, with  
27 respect to all elections, shall ~~have each machine~~ conduct logic and accuracy  
28 testing by having all election media tested to ascertain that the voting  
29 system has been correctly configured and will correctly ~~count~~ tabulate the  
30 votes cast for all offices and on all measures.

31           (2) ~~Public~~ In addition to the logic and accuracy testing under  
32 subdivision (c)(1) of this section, the county board of election  
33 commissioners shall conduct public testing as follows:

34           (A) The county board shall give public notice of the time  
35 and place of the test ~~shall be given~~ at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to  
36 the public test by publication one (1) time in one (1) or more daily or

1 weekly newspapers published in the town, city, or county using the machines  
2 if a newspaper is published in the town, city, or county;

3 ~~(3)(B)~~ The public test shall be open to representatives of the  
4 political parties, candidates, media, and the public;

5 ~~(4)(C)(i)~~ The public test shall be conducted by processing a  
6 preaudited group of test ballots that are to be voted on the machines so as  
7 to record a predetermined number of valid votes for each candidate and on  
8 each measure.

9 (ii) The public test shall include for each office  
10 one (1) or more ballots which have votes in excess of the number allowed by  
11 law in order to test the ability of the machines to reject the votes; and

12 ~~(5)(D)~~ If any error is detected, the cause shall be ascertained  
13 and corrected and an errorless count shall be made before the machine is  
14 approved.

15 (d) After completion of the logic and accuracy test and the public  
16 test, the ballots and programs used shall be sealed, retained, and disposed  
17 of as provided by law.

18 (e) After completion of the logic and accuracy test and the public  
19 test, the county board of election commissioners shall certify the accuracy  
20 of the voting system and file by:

21 (1) Sending a copy of the electronic results to the Secretary of  
22 State; and

23 (2) Filing the test results with the county clerk.

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25 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 7-5-517(b)-(d), concerning certification  
26 of secured voting machines, are amended to read as follows:

27 (b)(1) Any device required to activate the machine shall be placed in  
28 a package on which shall be written the serial number and the precinct  
29 location of the voting machine and the number registered on the ~~protective~~  
30 ~~counter or~~ device.

31 (2) The package shall be sealed in the presence of the  
32 representatives of the candidates or the candidates themselves.

33 (c) The county board of election commissioners shall then certify, in  
34 the presence of the candidates or their representatives, the serial numbers  
35 of the machines, that all question counters are set at zero (000), ~~and the~~  
36 ~~number registered on the protective counter of the machine.~~

1 (d) ~~Any activator pack or~~ An activation device required for voting on  
 2 the voting machines shall be kept by the county board until turned over for  
 3 delivery to the election officials with the election equipment at the polling  
 4 site for election day.

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 6 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 7-5-518(c)(2), concerning certification of  
 7 counters, is amended to read as follows:

8 (2) ~~The~~ After the close of voting on election day, the certified  
 9 printout, signed by the poll workers, shall be ~~filed~~:

10 (A) Returned to the county board; and

11 (B) Filed with the election returns.

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 13 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 7-5-526(a), concerning closing of polls,  
 14 securing machines, and the poll workers' certificate, is amended to read as  
 15 follows:

16 (a) At the official time for closing the polls and upon termination of  
 17 the voting, the poll workers shall announce that the polls have closed and in  
 18 the presence of all persons authorized to be present shall remove the  
 19 activation ~~packs or~~ devices from the voting machines to make them  
 20 inaccessible to further voting.

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 22 SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 7-5-527(c), concerning exposure of the  
 23 count, verification, return record, and official signatures, is amended to  
 24 read as follows:

25 (c)(1) The poll worker shall proceed to produce the ~~return~~ result  
 26 record in a minimum of three (3) copies.

27 (2)(A) The ~~return~~ result record shall be deemed the official  
 28 count for that machine.

29 (B) One (1) copy of the completed return record for that  
 30 machine shall be posted upon the wall of the polling room for all to see.

31  
 32 SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 7-5-527(e)(1), concerning exposure of the  
 33 count, verification, return record, and official signatures, is amended to  
 34 read as follows:

35 (e)(1) The activation ~~pack or~~ device used to collect votes from each  
 36 voting machine and all certified ~~return~~ result records shall be placed in a

1 package that shall be sealed and signed by all the poll workers and any  
2 watchers that may desire to affix a signature.

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4 SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 7-5-606(b)(2), concerning approval of  
5 equipment specifications, is amended to read as follows:

6 (2) The board shall examine the marking device or the electronic  
7 vote tabulating device and file a report in the office of the Secretary of  
8 State of its accuracy, efficiency, and capacity.

9  
10 SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 7-5-606(d), concerning approval of  
11 equipment specifications, is amended to read as follows:

12 (d) ~~Electronic~~ Marking devices or electronic vote tabulating devices  
13 not approved by the board or selected by the Secretary of State may not be  
14 used in any lawful election in this state.

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16 SECTION 17. Arkansas Code § 7-5-609 is amended to read as follows:  
17 7-5-609. Spoiled ballots.

18 Any voter who spoils his or her ballot or makes an error may return it  
19 to the election officials and ~~secure~~ mark another, not to exceed three (3) in  
20 all.

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22 SECTION 18. Arkansas Code § 7-5-610 is amended to read as follows:  
23 7-5-610. Write-in ballots.

24 In all elections in which write-in candidacies are allowed, the ballot  
25 shall permit electors to ~~write-in~~ submit the names of persons who have  
26 qualified as write-in candidates and whose names are not on the ballot.

27  
28 SECTION 19. Arkansas Code § 7-5-611(a), concerning preparation of  
29 electronic vote tabulating devices, testing, and disposition of voting  
30 materials, is amended to read as follows:

31 (a)(1) The county board of election commissioners, with respect to all  
32 elections, shall cause the electronic vote tabulating devices used for voting  
33 to be properly programmed and tested before delivery to the election  
34 precincts.

35 (2) ~~At least~~ As soon as the election media is prepared, but no  
36 later than seven (7) days prior to the beginning of voting, the county board,



1 with respect to all elections, shall ~~have~~ conduct public logic and accuracy  
 2 testing by having all election media from each electronic vote tabulating  
 3 device tested to ascertain that the devices will correctly count the votes  
 4 cast for all offices and on all measures.

5 ~~(3) Public~~

6 (b) In addition to the logic and accuracy test under subsection (a) of  
 7 this section, the county board of election commissioners shall conduct public  
 8 testing as follows:

9 (1) The county board shall provide public notice of the time and  
 10 place of the public test ~~shall be given~~ at least forty-eight (48) hours prior  
 11 thereto by publication one (1) time in one (1) or more daily or weekly  
 12 newspapers published in the town, city, or county using the devices, if a  
 13 newspaper is published therein;~~;~~

14 ~~(4)(2)~~ The public test shall be open to representatives of the  
 15 political parties, candidates, the press, and the public;~~;~~

16 ~~(5)(A)(3)(A)~~ The public test shall be conducted by processing  
 17 predetermined results from a group of ballots marked to record a  
 18 predetermined number of valid votes for each candidate and on each measure  
 19 for each precinct or voting location.

20 (B) Prior to the start of the public test, a printout shall  
 21 be generated to show that no votes are recorded on the electronic vote  
 22 tabulating device;~~;~~

23 (C) The public test shall include for each office one (1)  
 24 or more ballots which have votes in excess of the number allowed by law in  
 25 order to test the ability of the electronic vote tabulating devices to reject  
 26 such votes;~~;~~

27 ~~(6)(4)~~ If any error is detected, the cause shall be ascertained  
 28 and corrected, and an errorless count shall be made before the electronic  
 29 vote tabulating device or devices are certified for use in the election;~~;~~ and

30 ~~(7)(5)~~ Upon completion of the ~~testing~~ public test, the  
 31 electronic vote tabulating devices shall be cleared of any votes cast during  
 32 the test.

33 ~~(8)(d)~~ After completion of the logic and accuracy test and the  
 34 public test, the county board of election commissioners shall certify the  
 35 accuracy of the voting system and file the test results with the county  
 36 clerk.